

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 310491
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 310491

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR MASS SHUM EAID MI US

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE FOR MALAWI

REFS: A) LILONGWE 1419; B) STATE 301061

1. WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERNS AS EXPRESSED IN REFTTEL, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO INSURING THAT MALAWI WILL NOT BE EXCLUDED AUTOMATICALLY FROM CONTINGENCY ASSISTANCE SHOULD DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WARRANT THIS.

2. NEVERTHELESS, IT HAS RELUCTANTLY BEEN DECIDED THAT MALAWI SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN AID'S FY 78 CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION FOR SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE (SSA). FACTORS CITED IN REF B WERE IMPORTANT TO THE DECISION, AS
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WAS THE FACT THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE REPORTS WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT SSA PROPOSALS ARE PREPARED IN A RATHER RESTRICTIVE FORMAT WHICH DOES NOT PERMIT EXPLICIT BALANCING OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WITH OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (AS IN REF A, PARA 4) AND ALSO DOES NOT PERMIT COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES' PERFORMANCE.

THERE WAS SOME CONCERN THAT MALAWI'S INCLUSION COULD ALSO JEOPARDIZE THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN AFRICA SSA PACKAGE.

3. DEPARTMENT AND AID HAVE AGREED THAT BUNDA FUNDING SHOULD CONTINUE UNDER DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. AID HAS

ALSO AGREED THAT IF MALAWI DEVELOPS A NEED FOR THE TYPE OF ASSISTANCE ENVISIONED UNDER THE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUND, AN EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY AT THAT TIME.

4. LETTER FOLLOWS.
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